

ABSTRACT

A mold plate for a reciprocating mold plate food patty-forming apparatus has at least one laterally contoured region extending longitudinally. The contoured region has a raised top surface and a raised bottom surface. The mold plate has at least one cavity through the contoured region. A support plate has a recessed top surface extending longitudinally and corresponding in shape to the raised bottom surface of the mold plate and a fill opening in communication with the cavity when the mold plate is in the fill position during reciprocation of the mold plate. A breather plate has a recessed bottom surface extending longitudinally and corresponding in shape to the raised top surface of the mold plate. The top and bottom recessed surfaces of the support and breather plates respectively together form a longitudinal channel that closely conforms to the contoured region of the mold plate.